

Liquor functions out of bounds to freshmen

Freshmen face discrimination

by Dave Snow,
Dal Radio News Director

Last Monday, Dal Radio's News and Public Affairs weekly program, MONDAY AM, had a column by staffer Tristram T. Coffin which stated, in part, that as much as 10 percent of the student body could not legally attend liquor functions, because they were under the legal age for consumption of alcohol. It is unfortunate that these students cannot attend, but this 10 percent includes almost all of the first-year students. Functions at Dalhousie are, but for two exceptions in the past two years, all events where liquor is

served, and as such, are not open to this university's freshmen. Coffin went to Brian Smith and asked him what could be done about this unfortunate age discrimination.

Smith stated that one experiment was tried at a function last year. Students who were not legal age were stamped differently than "wet" students. The union had hoped that this would allow "dry" kids to participate in that and future entertainment events. As it turned out, the Union found that the "wets" were buying the "drys" their drinks. "Something like this takes co-operation from everybody

to work," Smith said, "but, unfortunately, our students here are not willing to co-operate." He added that this was fine, but "we cannot risk everyone losing their right to drink because some are abusing a system such as the two-stamp system." A second method which Smith himself suggested was that of the "restricted area". One section of the function would be off-bounds to drinkers. At first, this seems to be even more discriminatory, but Smith seemed to feel that this would work.

Only certain tables would be off-bounds to drinkers who had a drink in their hands. You

could take a guest who is underage, and be with him or her at all times except when you wanted a drink. The dance floor would be free for everybody, and the "dry" section would not be in an awkward position to enjoy whatever was going on.

A system such as this was not tried mainly because the organizers thought that the "drys" would feel segregated. Smith feels that they wouldn't, because they could interact with the "wets" at all times, except when the "wets" wanted a drink.

A spokesman from the Liquor License Board stated to me that the segregated system was

allowable in the laws of this province, as long as it was properly enforced. He added that isolated cases of non-co-operation by the people involved would not be acted upon by the board if the set-up of the restricted areas was efficient.

If Council were to adopt this system then this would mean that the freshmen class would participate in all events, rather than just a very few. With the wholehearted co-operation of everybody involved, functions of the student union would be open to all. I say, give the students a chance to fully enjoy their first year at Dalhousie.

N.S.A.S.C. goes to Ottawa

HALIFAX (CUP) — Executive members of the Nova Scotia Association of Student Unions will go to Ottawa soon to press for changes in the federal regulations governing Nova Scotia's student loan program.

The delegates will accompany provincial education minister Allan Sullivan.

The decision to approach federal officials came from a meeting between Sullivan and association executives, Jan. 10.

Sullivan called the meeting to discuss proposed changes in student aid for next year and to continue discussions begun in October about general student loan procedures.

The association wants changes in the way student loans administered. Association secretary Marg McEachern is optimistic.

"We want a standardized simplified system," she said. And judging by the response that we're getting (from government) we'll probably get it."

"Right now there are a lot of bugs in the system," she said. "We want changes in the area of required parental contributions, a standardized summer savings table, a shorter, more simple application form, a more realistic definition of independent status, and more easily obtainable bursaries."

The association would de-emphasize parental affluence and emphasize the needs of the student.

It would standardize the table requiring a student to save a certain amount of money during the summer. Failing stan-

dardization, the association would eliminate the table.

Students would gain independent status when they reach 19 years old, the association says. It would not matter if they lived at home.

"Basically we're looking for a more humane system," McEachern said. "A great deal of progress is being made."

"Student unions are showing the collective power they are able to muster," she said. "And government is finally listening."

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